



New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Public Schools

Independent School District No. 2168

District Office

306 Ash Avenue South
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Dale Carlson, Superintendent

Secondary School

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David Bunn, Principal

Elementary School

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Douglas Anderson, Principal

Empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed.

Construction Finance and Project Update

Dale Carlson, Superintendent

August 2019

Our vision as a school community is to *be the school district of choice, inspiring excellence in academics, arts, and activities*. We strive to do this every day by *empowering students with knowledge and skills to succeed*.

Facilities Bond Sale Update

As you may have read in the July 25 Star Eagle edition, the School Board approved moving forward with the \$9.1 million bond sale at the July 15, 2019, School Board meeting. The School District is pleased with the favorable rate of 2.6% compared to the higher rate of about 4% shared with taxpayers prior to the April 9 special election. The Board approved partnering with PFM Asset Management LLC for the investment management of the bond proceeds.

Ag2School Credit Update (By Karla Christopherson, Business Manager)

Leading up to the April 9 special election, the School District had shared information about the Ag2School Tax Credit first enacted into law during the 2017 legislative session that established a 40% credit on taxes paid on all current and future capital referendums for ag land owners. In the 2019 legislative session, lawmakers enacted a law to increase the credit amount over a four-year period beginning with 50% in 2020, 55% in 2021, 60% in 2022, and 70% in 2023.

This increased credit means higher property tax relief for ag land owners than previously thought at the passage of the April school bond referendum. According to Michael Hart, with Northland Public Finance, an agriculture property in the NRHEG school district valued at \$500,000, will see a total tax increase after the 40% Ag2School credit of \$54.75, at 50% the increase is \$45.63 and by the time this credit reaches 70%, the increase will drop to \$27.38.

“It is estimated the Ag2School credit increase will deliver up to \$10 million in property tax relief for farmers in fiscal years 2020-2021 and \$44 million in fiscal years 2022-2023. In addition to MCGA, an increase in the Ag2School credit was a priority for several agricultural groups in addition to the Minnesota Rural Education Association.” (Minnesota Corn Growers Association, May 28, 2019 website posting)

The Ag2School Tax Credit (Minn. Stat. 273.1387), does not indicate an end date for this credit and any changes to the law would require legislative action. “Eligible properties will see this credit presented in the top right corner of the proposed property tax statement, labeled ‘SBBAC’. The credit is not shown on the final property tax statements but a land owner can call their county Auditor/Treasurer’s office after the final statements are mailed out for the exact amount of the credit” according to Tammy Spooner, Waseca County Auditor-Treasurer.

Construction Update

The School District has reached an agreement with Knutson Construction to provide Construction Manager services for the remodel and building project. ISG architects and engineers are in the process of working with District staff to develop preliminary designs of impacted classroom and other building areas. An estimated timeline calls for finalized plans to go out to bid late 2019 or early 2020 with construction beginning late spring 2020. The majority of the project is planned to be completed over the summer of 2020 with the shop addition at the Secondary School being completed by late 2020. Updates are planned to be posted to the District's website.

Staff Report to Work August 26

Before students arrive on September 3, staff report on Monday, August 26, for inservice and planning for the start of the school year. All employees gather for a "Kick-off Breakfast" on August 29 followed by staff development activities. Both school buildings will be closed the morning of August 29 in order for all employees to participate in the District's inservice.

As always, I encourage you to contact me, the building principals, or the Board of Education members if you have any questions or comments pertaining to school district events, activities, or business. I have listed below names, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers to facilitate your ability to contact us. You may also find this information on our District website. We hope you are as proud of our district as we are to serve the NRHEG school community.

Board Members

Rick Schultz, Chair	rschultz@nrheg.k12.mn.us	507-465-8241
Dan Schmidt, Vice Chair	dschmidt@nrheg.k12.mn.us	507-381-7848
Karen Flatness, Secretary	kflatness@nrheg.k12.mn.us	507-845-2440
Travis Routh, Treasurer	trouth@nrheg.k12.mn.us	507-383-1960
Rich Mueller, Member	rmueller@nrheg.k12.mn.us	507-396-3311
Luke Routh, Member	lukerouth@nrheg.k12.mn.us	507-317-8105
Neil Schlaak, Member	nschlaak@nrheg.k12.mn.us	507-381-9849

Administration

Dale Carlson, Superintendent	dcarlson@nrheg.k12.mn.us	507-417-2602
Doug Anderson, Elementary Principal	danderson@nrheg.k12.mn.us	507-416-2102
David Bunn, Secondary Principal	dbunn@nrheg.k12.mn.us	507-417-2603

A reminder that the School Board conducts its regular monthly meeting on the third Monday of each month. The location of the meeting is rotated monthly between the NRHEG Secondary School Media Center in New Richland and the NRHEG Elementary School Media Center in Ellendale. The August 19, 2019, School Board meeting will be at the Secondary School beginning at 6:00 pm. (note the earlier start time), and the September 16, 2019, School Board meeting will be at the Elementary School beginning at 6:30 pm.

We celebrate together in the accomplishments of our students because we are in this journey together as a school community. Thank you for all you do to support NRHEG Public Schools and our students!